

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-27 and 47 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 28, 40, 48, and 49 have been amended herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 55 has been added. Claims 40, 43, and 50-54 have been withdrawn by the Examiner. All of the pending claims 28-46 and 48-55 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-27 (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A process for solution synthesis of a peptide in an organic solvent or a mixture of organic solvents, the process comprising repetitive cycles of steps (a)-(c) ~~(a)-(d)~~:

wherein step (a) comprises a coupling step, using an excess of a molecule comprising ~~of~~ an activated carboxylic to acylate an amino component,

wherein step (b) comprises a quenching step in which a scavenger is used to remove residual activated carboxylic functions, wherein the scavenger may also be used for deprotection of the growing peptide,

wherein step (c) comprises one or more aqueous extractions and ~~optionally,~~

~~(d) a separate deprotection step, followed by one or more aqueous extractions; and~~

wherein the process comprises at least one step (b), referred to as step (b'), in which an amine comprising a free anion or a latent anion is used as a scavenger of residual activated carboxylic functions.

29. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 28, wherein in step (a) the molecule comprising an activated carboxylic function is formed by reacting a carboxylic component, a coupling additive and a coupling reagent and wherein the molar amounts of

the reagents used are in decreasing order:

carboxylic component, coupling additive > coupling reagent > amino component.

30. (Previously presented) The process of claim 28, wherein in step (a) a pre-activated carboxylic component is used.
31. (Previously presented) The process of claim 28, wherein in step (b') an amine comprising a latent anion is used as the scavenger.
32. (Previously presented) The process of claim 31, wherein the latent anion in the scavenging amine bears a temporary protecting group which can be selectively removed in the presence of any permanent protecting groups attached to the growing peptide.
33. (Previously presented) The process of claim 31, wherein the latent anion in the scavenging amine bears a temporary protecting group which displays a lability similar to that of the temporary protecting group present at the N-terminus of the growing peptide.
34. (Previously presented) The process of claim 32, wherein the temporary protecting groups are hydrogenolytically removable groups.
35. (Previously presented) The process of claim 34, wherein the temporary protecting groups are of the benzyl type.
36. (Previously presented) The process of claim 31, wherein the scavenger is a primary amine comprising a free anion or a latent anion.
37. (Previously presented) The process of claim 36, wherein the primary amine is a C-terminally protected amino acid derivative.
38. (Previously presented) The process of claim 37, wherein the amino acid is β -alanine or a

derivative thereof.

39. (Previously presented) The process of claim 38, wherein the scavenger is benzyl β -alaninate or a salt thereof.
40. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) The process of claim 28, ~~wherein the process~~ comprises comprising one or more cycles wherein in step (b) a polyamine is used as the scavenger.
41. (Previously presented) The process of claim 28, comprising one or more cycles wherein in step (b) both quenching and deprotection occur and the subsequent step (c) comprises sequential basic and neutral extractions.
42. (Previously presented) The process of claim 41, wherein the extractions are performed in the presence of sodium chloride or potassium nitrate.
43. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 28, wherein in the last cycle in step (a) the protecting groups of the carboxylic component display a similar lability to that of the permanent protecting groups of the growing peptide and in step (b) the scavenger is a polyamine.
44. (Previously presented) The process of claim 28, wherein the organic solvent or mixture of organic solvents is ethyl acetate or a mixture of ethyl acetate and dichloromethane, a mixture of ethyl acetate and 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, a mixture of ethyl acetate and *N,N*-dimethylformamide or a mixture of ethyl acetate and tetrahydrofuran.
45. (Previously presented) The process of claim 28, wherein the process is performed within a temperature range of 0 to 50 °C.
46. (Previously presented) The process of claim 45, wherein the process is performed at

ambient temperature.

47. (Canceled)
48. (Currently amended) ~~A method for automated solution synthesis of peptides, wherein the process of claim 28 is applied~~ The process of claim 28, said process applied in a method for automated solution synthesis of peptides.
49. (Currently amended) The process of claim 32, wherein the permanent protecting groups are acidolytically removable groups.
50. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 28, wherein a thiol comprising a free or a latent anion is used as a scavenger instead of an amine comprising a free or a latent anion.
51. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 28, comprising one or more cycles wherein in step (b) deprotection does not occur and the subsequent step (c) comprises sequential basic, acidic and basic extractions.
52. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 51, wherein the extractions are performed in the presence of sodium chloride or potassium nitrate.
53. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 51, comprising a subsequent step (d) which comprises deprotection and sequential basic and neutral extractions.
54. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 53, wherein the extractions are performed in the presence of sodium chloride or potassium nitrate.
55. (New) The process of claim 28, wherein the process further comprises at least one step (d), wherein step (d) comprises a separate deprotection step, followed by one or more aqueous extractions.